1/19/76

Mr. Bud Fensterwald
1707 H St., NW, 10th floor
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Bud,

Rightly or wrongly I gathered that if you do not have a sincere interest in the retiring Downing you feel a sense of obligation to him. This is one of the reasons I take time to write. Another is what I regard as your unwise decision to affiliate with Lane. This is to say your personal interest.

If I know what I'll report I'm sure reporters will know more and learn even more.

The committee to date has demeaned self-respecting barnyards. I know of none of this shit that does not go back to your associate Lane, i.e. the asshole. I do not mean by this that he speaks for you or that this silliness was what you think or want.

His fellow goons are boasting that he is responsible for Sprague's getting his job ("acting," that is). And from the information offered me Sprague has told the committee what, if it gets around, could give Jimmy more cause to blame you if not sue you. I'm sure you have what you'd rather do than defend suits.

I'm hearing from too many people that Lane is running the committee not to wonder.

Their record to date is typical Lane and hurtful to them.

Lane - in Ray's context your associate - made false representations to Jimmy. He also got Jimmy to sign a release I've not seen (and would like to) for a duplication of my FOIA suit on the King materials. While I think this will not work and that Jimmy has already had second thoughts I suggest some to you in the event Jimmy decides on simple arithmetic.Lane plus you.

On his initiative I've had two meetings with Sprague (the second withJim) and two phone conversations. I've written him several letters he probably dislikes morethan his poker face or prosecutor's words reflected. From the information I have from a thoroughly dependable source whose sources include two Members Sprague behaved badly with Jim in not telling him what he told the Members. In effect that Jimmy shot King.

In time this will get out. And to Jimmy. Now to Jim, for I must tell him.

I don't know what the committee has done, I've not asked and it has not been volunteered. But from what has been volunteered to me it has been on a course that means Jimmy killed King in its belief. I know more than this encapsulation, without having asked.

With the committee I've asked nothing. Of Rick I did, and for only the purposes I gave him: preparing to defend against Downing's insanity in going for Morrow's fabrications. Other than for some possible archival value I have no interest. Rick was openly uptight and resentful so I have not repeated this. I have no real interest of other nature. And Rick has not given me what Downing used, i.e., the public record. I do not sweat over it. Nor do I really want to waste time reading it, for my own purposes anyway. It is drums. I'm sure you know, if you may not know those with interest in Morrow. Including foreign. Downing's friend Morrow, that is.

What was told to the Members led one of them to tell a reporter friend of mine that they'll solve the King assassination. So they sent people to the Canadian border and to Chicago, which again gets back to Jimmy, as I think you can see. Maybe Cliff, too? (One Member's sole objection was to the amount of money spent by one person. I think I'd have questions about as I recall $6,000.)

You'ven been caught up in all of this. I think you should watch out.

Sincerely,